(b) According to the joint statement, the discussions, which covered "the basic questions of Soviet-American relations and the current international situation", were "frank and useful" but "serious differences remain on a number of key issues". The statement said that "some greater understanding of each other's view was achieved" and that the two leaders had "agreed on the need to imorpve Soviet-American relations and the international situation as a whole".

The joint statement also states that it had been agreed "to accelerate the work" at the bilateral US-Soviet negotiations on nuclear and space arms and mentions, in this context, "the principle of 50 per cent reductions in the nuclear arms of the two sides appropriately applied" as one of the areas where there is common ground.

(c) Government of India welcome the resumption of a high level dialogue between the USSR and the USA and the pledge by both sides to work for an improvement in Soviet-American relations and in the international situation as a whole.

They particularly welcome the joint affirmation by the two leaders of the "special responsibility of the USSR and the USA for maintaining peace", their statement that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought" and their emphasis on "the importance of preventing any war between them, whether nuclear or conventional."

Government of India hope that these talks would have the effect of easing the tension prevailing in the world today and lead to an agreement on concrete measures for reduction of the nuclear arsenals of the two Super-powers.

Production of hardware

457. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up with foreign collaboration electronic plants with high technology in the public sector to produce hardware to meet the requirements of the Indian army;

(b) if so, with which country Government are negotiating to collaborate in the manufacture of electronic hardware in India; and

(c) which country has agreed to collaborate and on what terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There is no proposal to set up a new electronics plant with high technology in the public sector with foreign collaboration to produce hardware to meet the requirement of Indian Army. However, some of the existing public sector undertakings, both within and outside the Ministry of Defence are manufacturing hardware required by the Indian Army, in some cases with foreign collaboration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Identification of backward areas for development

*458. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have asked the State Governments to identify the backward areas for development;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;